BOOK

LAST DAY FOR $15 OFF THE "DENVER MEMORIES" BOOK

»8K

SPORTS

POMONA WINS 5A DUEL WITH EAGLECREST »1F

COUPONS

TOTAL COUPON SAVINGS IN TODAY'S PAPER: $172

»denverpost.com/coupons

Voice of the Rocky Mountain Empire

THE SUNDAY DENVER POST

PARTLY SUNNY, WARMER ▲67° ▼32° »9B • DECEMBER 3, 2017 • DENVERPOST.COM • © THE DENVER POST • $3 PRICE MAY VARY OUTSIDE METRO DENVER ★

COLORADO POPULATION

Numbers in state, on roads driving many out

By Aldo Svaldi *The Denver Post*

Colorado's red-hot population growth rate is cooling, and while current residents may celebrate, those who are leaving in increasing numbers say they were driven away by rising housing prices, jobs that don't pay enough and traffic jams.

The state in 2016 saw its first drop this decade in the number of people arriving from other states, while those leaving Colorado hit a record high, resulting in the lowest net-migration number — 30,000 total new residents — in seven years.

New annual figures from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey show that 193,000 Coloradans moved away last year, 10,000 more than in 2015, while 223,000 moved here, down about 4,000 from the year before but still well above recent years.

"We are seeing that there has been an increase in outs — the highest on record," said state demographer Elizabeth Garner.

Nicole Parkin moved to Colorado from New Jersey in 2009, lured by a combination of "beauty and affordability." On Friday night, she planned to start the long drive back, her car loaded with personal belongings, a pet dog and a deep sense of resignation.

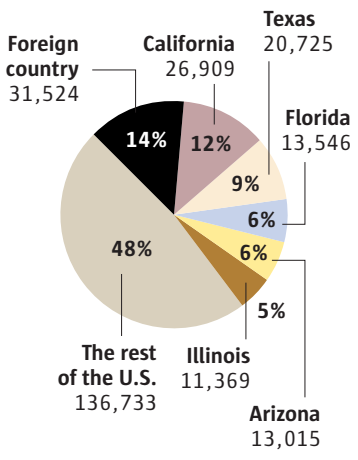
"The growth of our beautiful city has brought nothing but increased traffic, angry entitled transplants who have no respect,

LEAVING » 19A

Relocating to Colorado

Migration into Colorado continues to run strong, with relocations from five states and abroad accounting for about half the residents who moved here in 2016.

By percent, with number relocating



Source: American Community Survey, 2009-16

The Denver Post

2018 PYEONGCHANG OLYMPICS

"I just want to have fun and snowboard"

Red Gerard, a snowboarding phenomenon, plans to compete in both the slopestyle and big-air events at the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics. *Hyoung Chang, The Denver Post*

By Jason Blevins *The Denver Post*

SILVERTHORNE »

On any given winter afternoon, Red Gerard's backyard teems with jibbing teens sliding rails, hitting jumps and ripping laps in a hand-sculpted terrain park. "I learned so many rail tricks back there. It's so fun. We'd just stay out there till sunset every day," said the 17-year-old Gerard, a high-flying snowboarding phenom whose creative prowess on rails and jumps makes him one of America's favorites for Olympic glory in South Korea come February.

Gerard's arc toward snowboarding luminary and the late-night talk show circuit began when he was knee-high, wowing spectators and peers worldwide as one of the youngest kids ever to stomp a double-cork and riding rails in ways that inspired professionals 10 years older. The 2018 Olympics could be his coronation.

But don't tell him that.

He's not eyeing gold medals. He's not thinking about standing on a podium while "The Star-Spangled Banner" plays. He's not even thinking about the demanding slopestyle and big air pre-Olympic qualification competition this month at Copper Mountain and Breckenridge.

"That might change when I get there and maybe I'll start feeling nervous. But I doubt that. I have not thought about it at all, really," Gerard said recently while nibbling through a Chipotle burrito at his family's home perched above a yet-to-be-snowy backyard terrain park with views of Dillon Reservoir.

What Gerard is thinking about is his new snowmobile tucked into a trailer in the

GERARD » 17A

LIFE & CULTURE

"TOP CHEF" COLORADO KICKS OFF THURSDAY

The 15th season of Bravo's culinary competition "Top Chef" — filmed in Colorado — debuts this week. »1C

BUSINESS

COUNTIES' BROADBAND PLANS NOT HIGH-SPEED

Local governments are looking for private partnerships to offer public internet after voters' support. »1K

NATION & WORLD

WORK REMAINS FOR GOP ON TAX REFORM

Republicans will have to work out the differences between the Senate and House versions of tax reform. »14A

INSIDE Books » 6-8E | Crosswords » 12E | Lottery » 2B | Movies » 4E | Obituaries » 6-8B | Travel » 9-10E

digitalfirst MEDIA

0 842767 0

YOU can rescue a widow from sleeping by her stove.

One in four Colorado households can't afford to heat or light their homes. Become a HEAT HERO and join with Energy Outreach Colorado to protect families and seniors from being left in the cold. Your generous gift can keep your neighbors' homes warm and bright.

ENERGY OUTREACH Colorado

Helping Coloradans afford home energy

95¢ out of every dollar we raise goes directly to needy Coloradans, earning top ratings and recognition from:

HEAT·HERO COLORADO

YOUR superpower is warming hearts. Donate at energyoutreach.org/hero